

The Royal Society of Chemistry is the world's leading chemistry community. Through our high impact journals and publications we connect the world with the chemical sciences and invest the profits back into the chemistry community.

### IN THIS ISSUE

ISSN 1463-9076 CODEN PPCFQ 26(8) 6461–7242 (2024)



#### Cover

See Ivan Nemec, Petr Neugebauer et al., *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2023, 25, 29516–29530.  
Image reproduced by permission of Petr Neugebauer from *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2023, 25, 29516–29530.  
Artist Laura Rodríguez Martínez using Mercury 4.0 and Adobe Illustrator.



#### Inside cover

See Dmitri Babikov et al., pp. 6627–6637.  
Image reproduced by permission of Dmitri Babikov from *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2024, 26, 6627.  
Comet image credit: ESO / M. Kormesser.

### PROFILE

6483

#### Adventures in interdisciplinary science: a half century at the nexus between chemistry, physics and biology

Judith Herzfeld

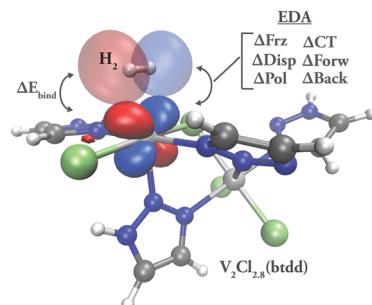


### PERSPECTIVES

6490

#### Quantum chemical modeling of hydrogen binding in metal–organic frameworks: validation, insight, predictions and challenges

Romit Chakraborty,\* Justin J. Talbot, Hengyuan Shen, Yuto Yabuuchi, Kurtis M. Carsch, Henry Z. H. Jiang, Hiroyasu Furukawa, Jeffrey R. Long and Martin Head-Gordon\*





# Royal Society of Chemistry approved training courses

Explore your options.  
Develop your skills.  
Discover learning  
that suits you.

Courses in the classroom,  
the lab, or online

Find something for every  
stage of your professional  
development. Search our  
database by:

- subject area
- location
- event type
- skill level

Members get at least 10% off

Visit [rsc.li/cpd-training](https://rsc.li/cpd-training)

SAVE  
10%

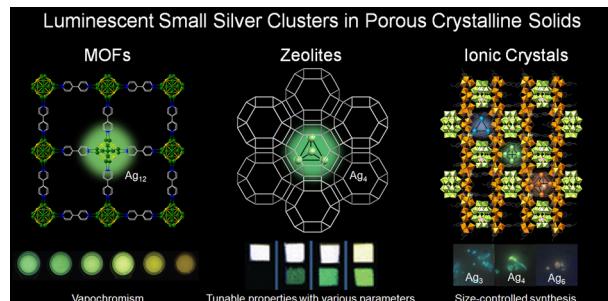


## PERSPECTIVES

6512

**Small luminescent silver clusters stabilized in porous crystalline solids**

Naoya Haraguchi, Taisei Kurosaki and Sayaka Uchida\*

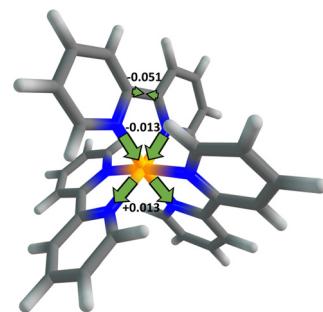


## COMMUNICATION

6524

**Nature of ultrafast dynamics in the lowest-lying singlet excited state of  $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]^{2+}$** 

Chenyu Zeng, Yaqi Li, Hangjing Zheng, Mingxing Ren, Wei Wu and Zhenhua Chen\*

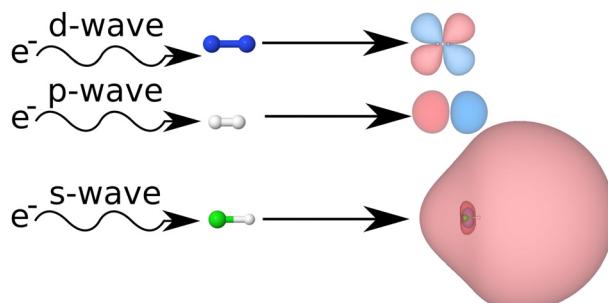


## RESEARCH PAPERS

6532

**Signatures of s-wave scattering in bound electronic states**

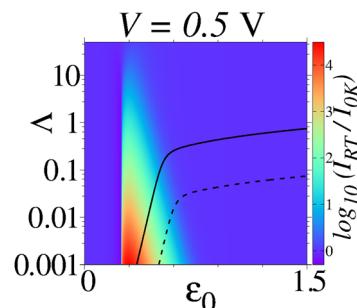
Robin E. Moorby,\* Valentina Parravicini, Maristella Alessio and Thomas-C. Jagau\*



6540

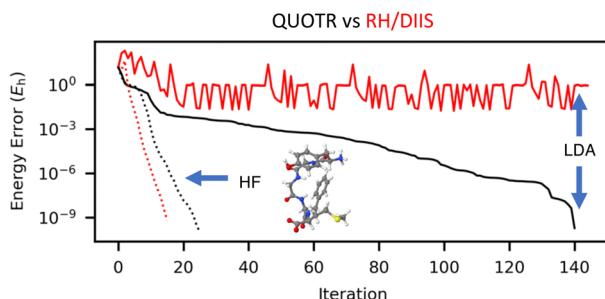
**Can tunneling current in molecular junctions be so strongly temperature dependent to challenge a hopping mechanism? Analytical formulas answer this question and provide important insight into large area junctions**

Ioan Bâldea



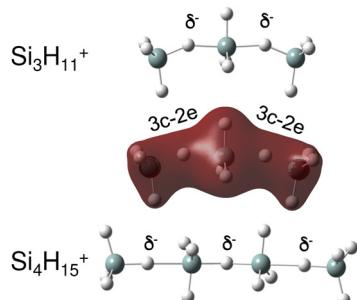
## RESEARCH PAPERS

6557

**Economical quasi-Newton unitary optimization of electronic orbitals**

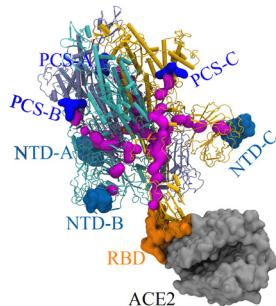
Samuel A. Slattery, Kshitijkumar A. Surjuse, Charles C. Peterson, Deborah A. Penchoff and Edward F. Valeev\*

6574

**Infrared spectra of  $\text{Si}_n\text{H}_{4n-1}^+$  ions ( $n = 2-8$ ): inorganic H-(Si-H)<sub>n-1</sub> hydride wires of penta-coordinated Si in 3c-2e and charge-inverted hydrogen bonds**

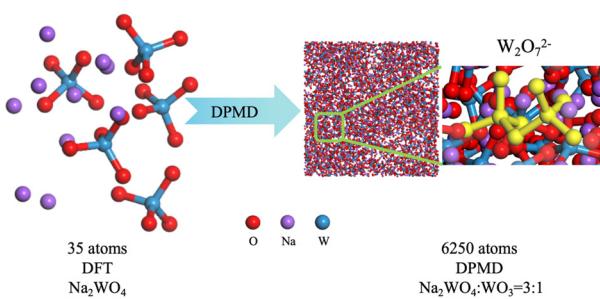
Martin Andreas Robert George and Otto Dopfer\*

6582

**Allosteric regulation in SARS-CoV-2 spike protein**

Yong Wei, Amy X. Chen, Yuewei Lin, Tao Wei\* and Baofu Qiao\*

6590

**Effect of electric fields on tungsten distribution in  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4-\text{WO}_3$  molten salt**

Yuliang Guo, Xiaobo Sun, Handong Jiao, Liwen Zhang, Wenxuan Qin, Xiaoli Xi\* and Zuoren Nie\*

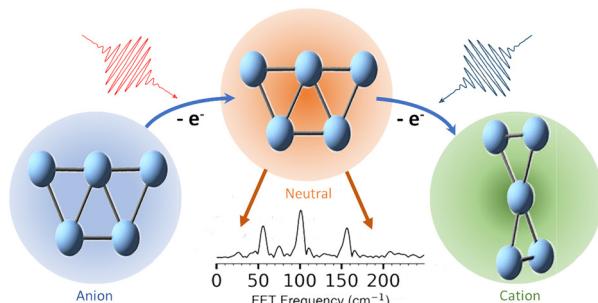


## RESEARCH PAPERS

6600

**Vibrational wave-packet dynamics of the silver pentamer probed by femtosecond NeNePo spectroscopy**

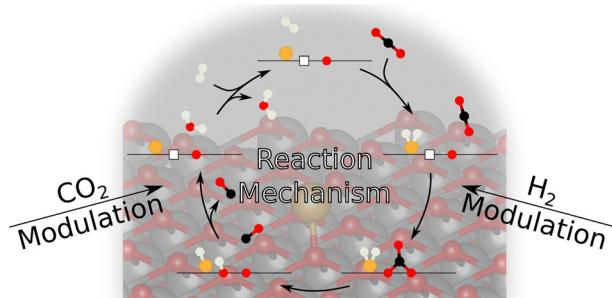
Max Grellmann, Martin DeWitt, Daniel M. Neumark, Knut R. Asmis and Jiaye Jin\*



6608

**Refining the mechanism of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> activation over gold-ceria catalysts by IR modulation excitation spectroscopy**

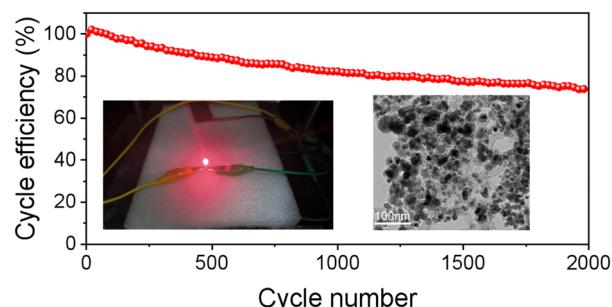
Jakob Weyel and Christian Hess\*



6616

**MOF-derived NiAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> porous materials as supercapacitors with high electrochemical performance**

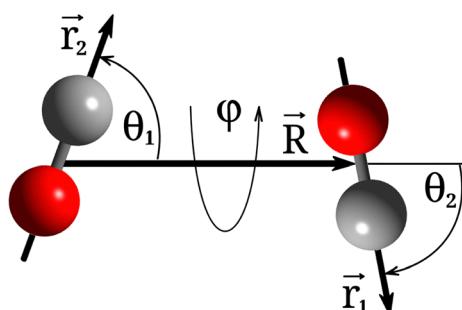
Changyu Hu, Huidong Xie,\* Yibo Wang, Hu Liu, Yajuan Zhao and Chang Yang



6627

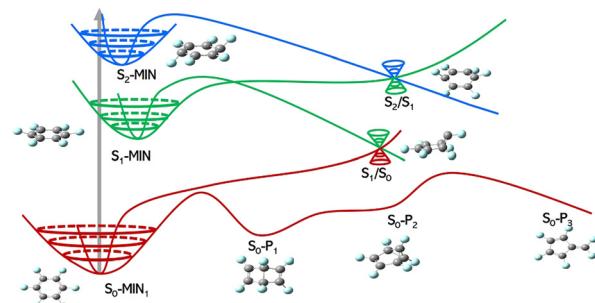
**Mixed quantum/classical calculations of rotationally inelastic scattering in the CO + CO system: a comparison with fully quantum results**

Dulat Bostan, Bikramaditya Mandal, Carolin Joy, Michał Żółtowski, François Lique, Jérôme Loreau, Ernesto Quintas-Sánchez, Adrian Batista-Planas, Richard Dawes and Dmitri Babikov\*



## RESEARCH PAPERS

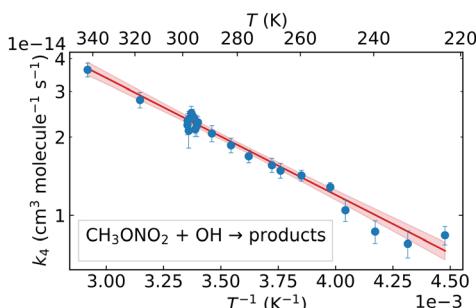
6638



### Photochemical mechanistic study of hexafluorobenzene involving the low-lying states

Duoduo Li, Xinli Song,\* Jinming Liu and Song Zhang\*

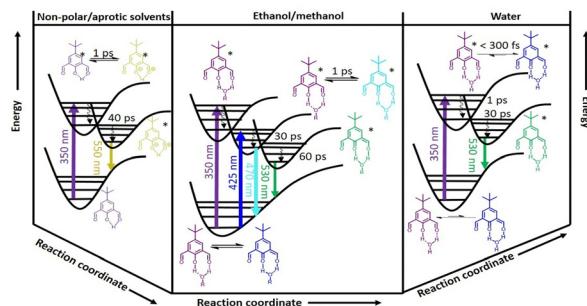
6646



### Kinetics of the reaction of OH with methyl nitrate (223–343 K)

Christin Fernholz, Fabienne Baumann, Jos Lelieveld and John N. Crowley\*

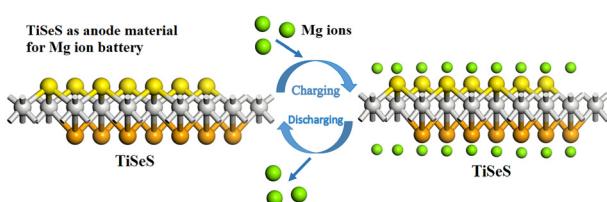
6655



### Non-trivial ground and excited state photophysics of a substituted phenol

Aparna Shukla, Vikas Kumar Jha and Soumit Chatterjee\*

6667



### Exploring the anodic performance of ScSeS and TiSeS monolayers of modified transition metal dichalcogenides for Mg ion batteries via DFT calculations

Sharah Sami Rifah, Md. Sakib Zaman, Afia Akter Piya and Siraj Ud Daula Shamim\*



## RESEARCH PAPERS

6678

**Planar tetracoordinate fluorine atom: global minimum with viable possibility**

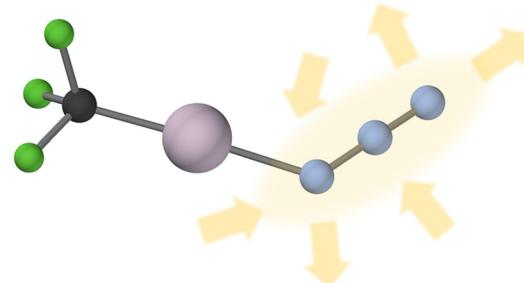
Kangkan Sarmah, Amlan J. Kalita and Ankur Kanti Guha\*



6683

**Azido-mediated intermolecular interactions of transition metal complexes**

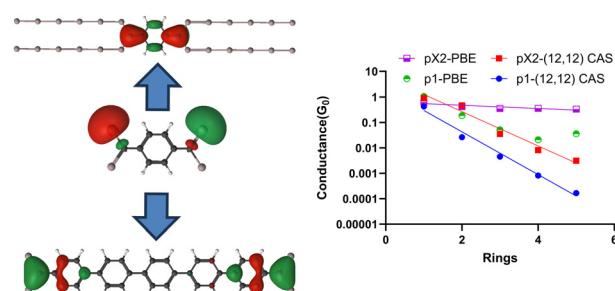
Juan D. Velasquez, Jorge Echeverría,\* Célia Fonseca Guerra\* and Santiago Alvarez\*



6696

**Assessing the importance of multireference correlation in predicting reversed conductance decay**

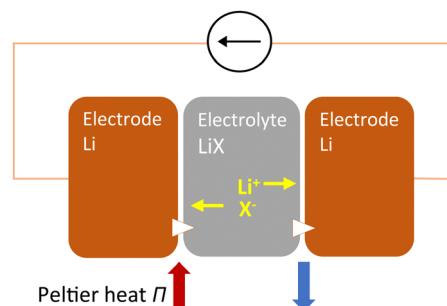
Tanner A. Cossaboon, Samir Kazmi, Matthew Tineo and Erik P. Hoy\*



6708

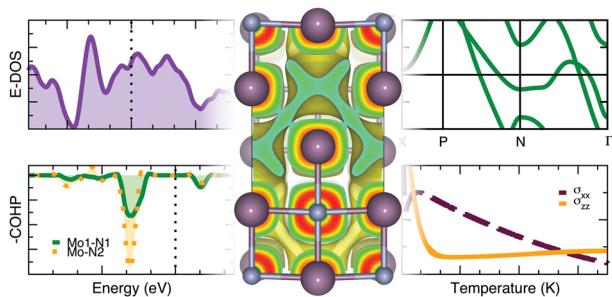
**Ionic Peltier effect in Li-ion electrolytes**

Zhe Cheng, Yu-Ju Huang, Benjamin Zahiri, Patrick Kwon, Paul V. Braun and David G. Cahill\*



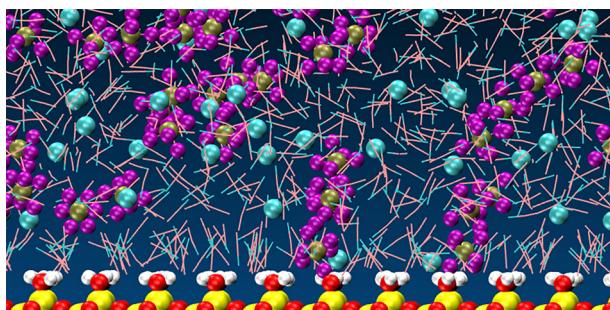
## RESEARCH PAPERS

6717

**Metallicity and chemical bonding in anti-anatase  $\text{Mo}_2\text{N}$** 

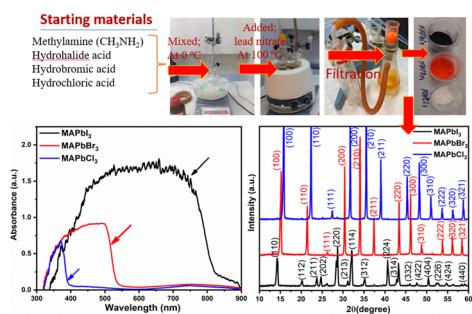
Lauren N. Walters and James M. Rondinelli\*

6726

**Beyond the electrical double layer model: ion-dependent effects in nanoscale solvent organization**

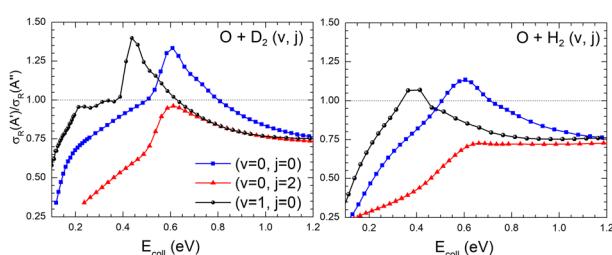
Amanda J. Souna, Mohammad H. Motevasselian, Jake W. Polster, Jason D. Tran, Zuzanna S. Siwy, Narayana R. Aluru and John T. Fourkas\*

6736

**An intrinsic electrical conductivity study of perovskite powders  $\text{MAPbX}_3$  (X = I, Br, Cl) to investigate its effect on their photovoltaic performance**

Shafi Ullah,\* Andreu Andrio, Julia Marí-Guaita, Hanif Ullah, Antonio Méndez-Blas, Roxana M. del Castillo Vázquez, Bernabé Mari and Vicente Compañ\*

6752

**Dynamical effects on the  $\text{O}(^3\text{P}) + \text{D}_2$  reaction and its impact on the  $\Delta$ -doublet population**

A. Veselinova, M. Menéndez, L. González-Sánchez, A. Zanchet, F. J. Aoiz and P. G. Jambrina\*

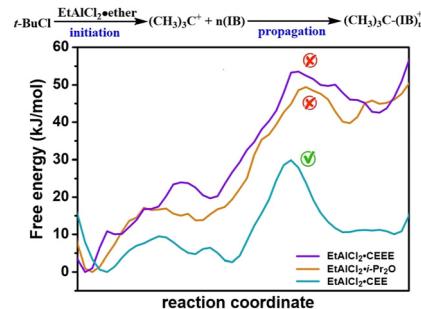


## RESEARCH PAPERS

6763

**A theoretical study of the mechanism of cationic polymerization of isobutylene catalysed by EtAlCl<sub>2</sub>/*t*-BuCl with bis(2-chloroethyl)ether in hexanes**

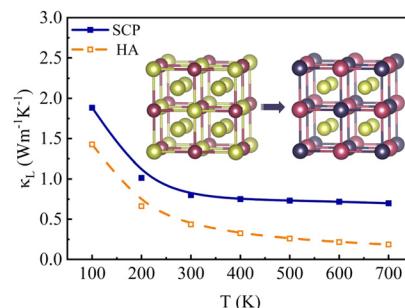
Xinrong Yan, Meng Du, Jiwei Li, Ying Xue, Yibo Wu, Hao Zhang, Xin Wang\* and Dingguo Xu\*



6774

**Novel room-temperature full-Heusler thermoelectric material Li<sub>2</sub>TlSb**

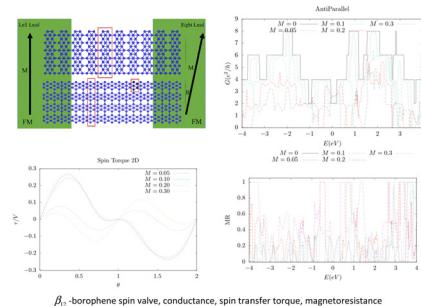
Siqi Guo, Jincheng Yue, Junda Li, Yanhui Liu\* and Tian Cui\*



6782

**Spin-dependent transport and spin transfer torque in a borophene-based spin valve**

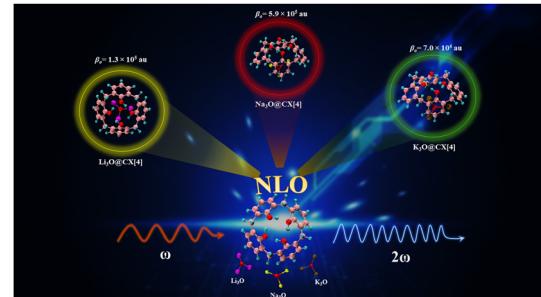
Erfan Nikan\* and Amirhossein Ahmadkhan Kordbacheh



6794

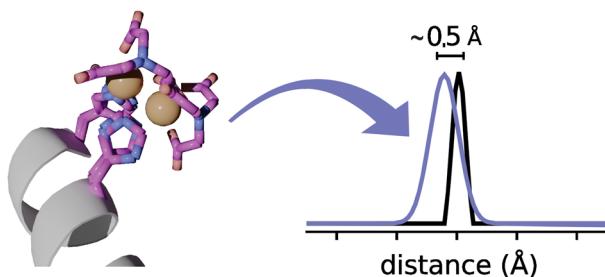
**Unraveling the role of superalkalis in modulating the static and dynamic hyperpolarizabilities of emerging calix[4]arenes**

Khalida Khalil, Shahnaz, Ralf Ludwig, Ammar M. Tighezza, Khurshid Ayub, Tariq Mahmood and Mazhar Amjad Gilani\*



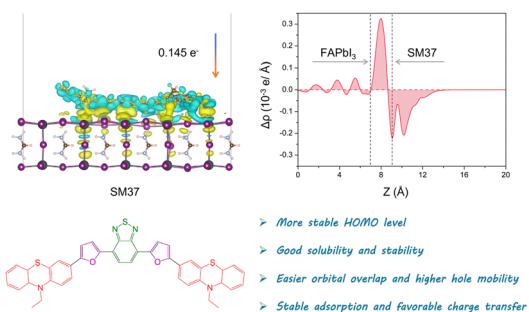
## RESEARCH PAPERS

6806

**Modeling of Cu(II)-based protein spin labels using rotamer libraries**

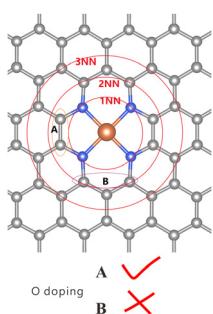
Zikri Hasanbasri, Maxx H. Tessmer, Stefan Stoll\* and Sunil Saxena\*

6817

**Donor engineering of a benzothiadiazole-based D–A–D-type molecular semiconductor for perovskite solar cells: a theoretical study**

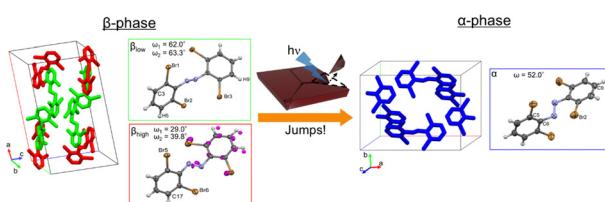
Zhu-Zhu Sun,\* Yushan Li\* and Xing-Lei Xu

6826

**The nearby atomic environment effect on an Fe–N–C catalyst for the oxygen reduction reaction: a density functional theory-based study**

PengFei Yuan,\* Chong Li, Jiannan Zhang, Fei Wang, Juanjuan Wang and Xuebo Chen\*

6834

**Releasing a bound molecular spring with light: a visible light-triggered photosalient effect tied to polymorphism**

Keegan McGehee, Koichiro Saito, Dennis Kwarie, Hiroyuki Minamikawa and Yasuo Norikane\*

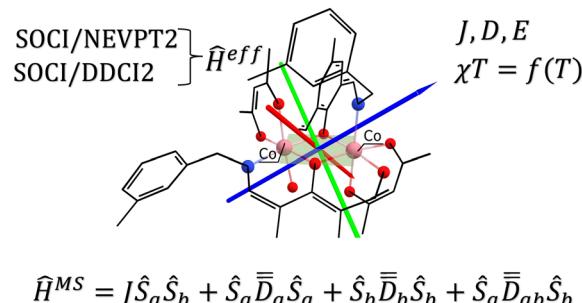


## RESEARCH PAPERS

6844

**The resolution of the weak-exchange limit made rigorous, simple and general in binuclear complexes**

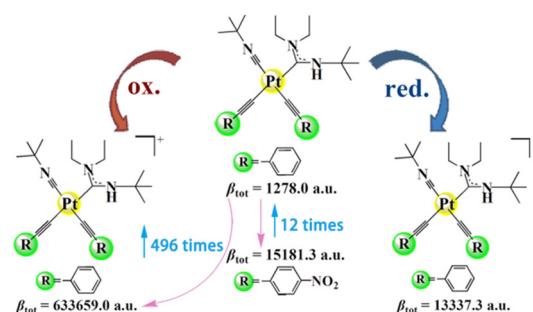
Dumitru-Claudiu Sergentu, Boris Le Guennic and Rémi Maurice\*



6862

**A theoretical study on the second-order nonlinear optical properties of Pt(II) bis-acetylides complexes: substituent and redox effects**

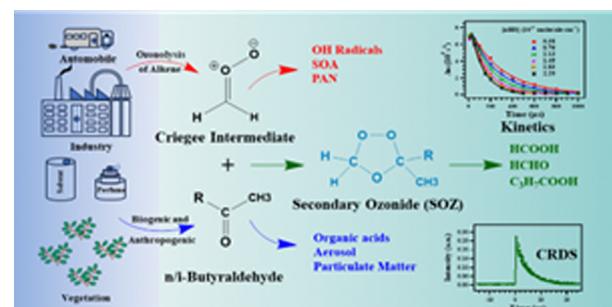
Liting Sun, Yingying Wang, Yuanyuan Zhao\* and Yongqing Qiu\*



6872

**Experimental and theoretical study of Criegee intermediate ( $\text{CH}_2\text{OO}$ ) reactions with *n*-butyraldehyde and isobutyraldehyde: kinetics, implications and atmospheric fate**

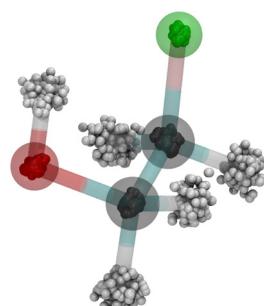
Amit Debnath and Balla Rajakumar\*



6885

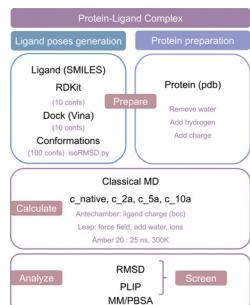
**Nuclear quantum effects in gas-phase 2-fluoroethanol**

Mrinal Arandhara and Sai G. Ramesh\*



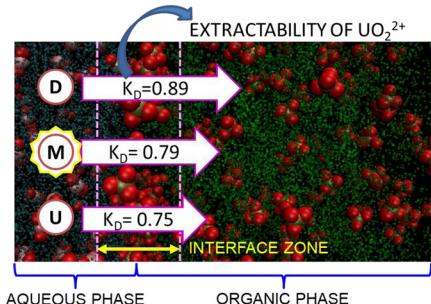
## RESEARCH PAPERS

6903

**Elucidation of protein–ligand interactions by multiple trajectory analysis methods**

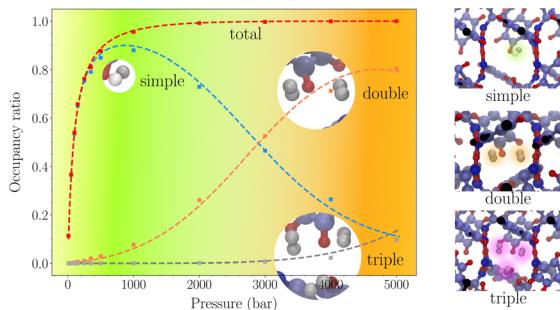
Nian Wu,\* Ruotian Zhang, Xingang Peng, Lincan Fang, Kai Chen and Joakim S. Jestilä

6916

**Structure and dynamics of dissociated and undissociated forms of nitric acid and their implications in interfacial mass transfer: insights from molecular dynamics simulations**

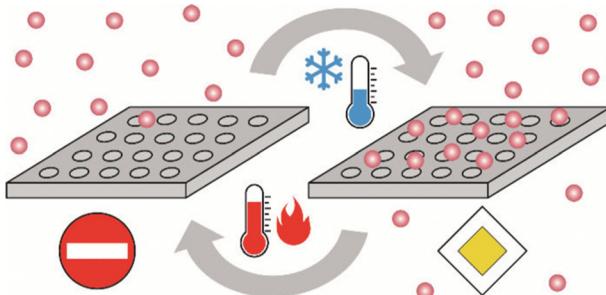
Arya Das and Sk. Musharaf Ali\*

6939

**Upper storage-capacity limit and multiple occupancy phenomena in  $\text{H}_2$ -hydroquinone clathrates using Monte Carlo and DFT simulations**

B. Parage, C. Miqueu, M. Pérez-Rodríguez, T. Méndez-Morales and M. M. Piñeiro\*

6949

**Anti-Arrhenius passage of gaseous molecules through nanoporous two-dimensional membranes**

Petr Dementyev\* and Armin Gölzhäuser

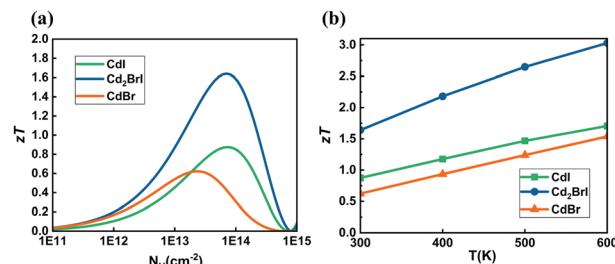


## RESEARCH PAPERS

6956

**The thermoelectric properties of CdBr, CdI, and Janus Cd<sub>2</sub>BrI monolayers with low lattice thermal conductivity**

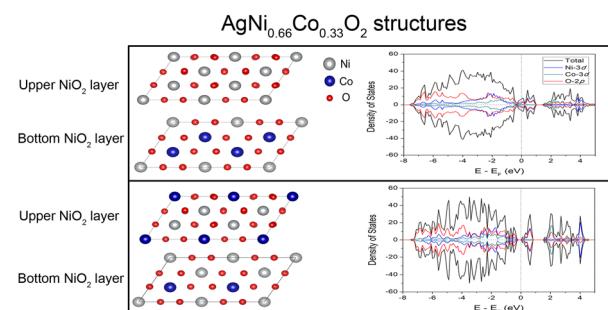
Yan-Ling Wu, Qiu Yang, Hua-Yun Geng and Yan Cheng\*



6967

**DFT+U and quantum Monte Carlo study of electronic and optical properties of AgNiO<sub>2</sub> and AgNi<sub>1-x</sub>Co<sub>x</sub>O<sub>2</sub> delafossite**

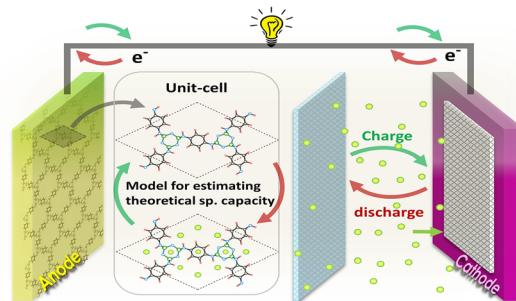
Hyeondeok Shin,\* Panchapakesan Ganesh, Paul R. C. Kent, Anouar Benali, Anand Bhattacharya, Ho Nyung Lee, Olle Heinonen and Jaron T. Krogel\*



6977

**Enhanced As-COF nanochannels as a high-capacity anode for K and Ca-ion batteries**

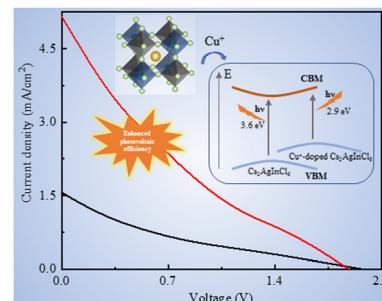
Shehzad Ahmed, Awais Ghani, Imran Muhammad, Iltaf Muhammad, Andleeb Mehmood, Naeem Ullah, Arzoo Hassan, Yong Wang, Xiaoqing Tian\* and Boris Yakobson



6984

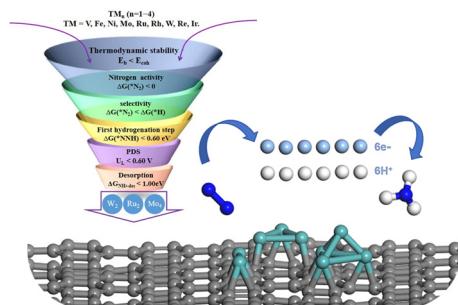
**Cu<sup>+</sup>-doped lead-free double perovskite quantum dots for enhancing the photovoltaic performance of carbon-based Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> perovskite solar cells**

Yanting Li, Jiaying Li, Sidi Ye, Yanting Liu, Lili Meng, Hua Yao and Qian Chen\*

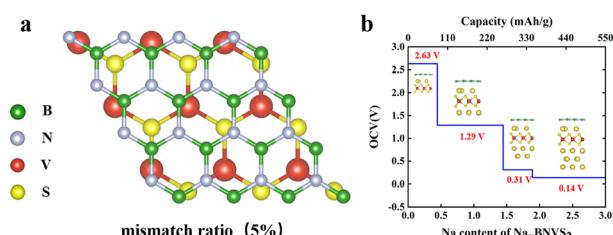


## RESEARCH PAPERS

6991

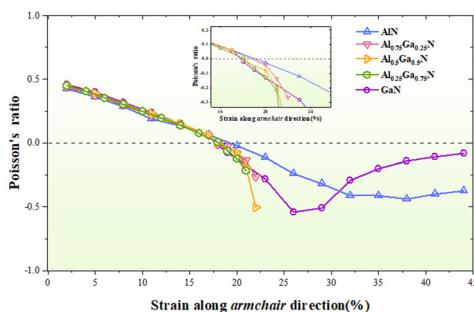
**Transition metal small clusters anchored on biphenylene for effective electrocatalytic nitrogen reduction**Yan Gao, Qingchen Li, Zhili Yin, Haifeng Wang,\*  
Zhong Wei\* and Junfeng Gao\*

7001

**Theoretical insights into the intercalation mechanism of Li, Na, and Mg ions in a metallic BN/VS<sub>2</sub> heterostructure**

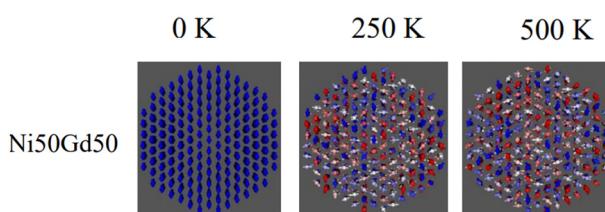
Lingxiao Luo, Shuangshuang Tan,\* Zhipeng Gao, Xiaofang Yang,\* Junyao Xu,\* Guangsheng Huang, Jingfeng Wang and Fusheng Pan

7010

**Alloying enhanced negative Poisson's ratio in two-dimensional aluminum gallium nitride ( $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ )**

Xiaoxia Wang, Zhunyun Tang, Linfeng Yu, Donghai Wei, Zonghao Yuan, Chao Tang, Huimin Wang,\* Tao Ouyang\* and Guangzhao Qin\*

7020

**Exploring intermixed magnetic nanoparticles: insights from atomistic spin dynamics simulations**

Junais Habeeb Mokkath,\* Remya Nair and Mufasila Mumthaz Muhammed

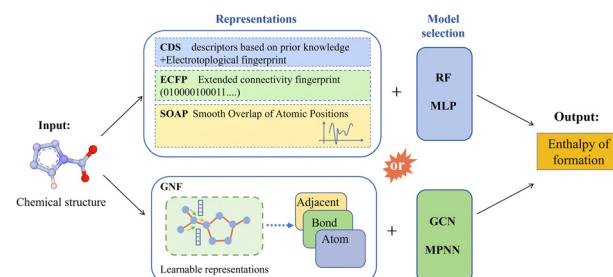


## RESEARCH PAPERS

7029

## Predicting the enthalpy of formation of energetic molecules via conventional machine learning and GNN

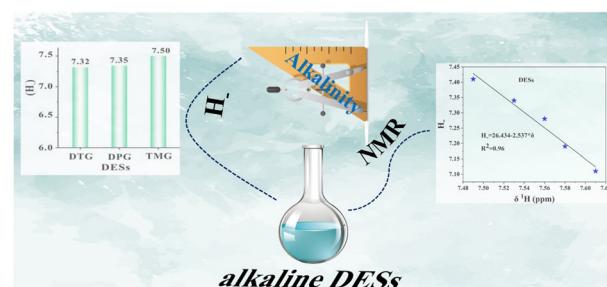
Di Zhang, Qingzhao Chu and Dongping Chen\*



7042

## Quantification of alkalinity of deep eutectic solvents based on ( $\text{H}_-$ ) and NMR

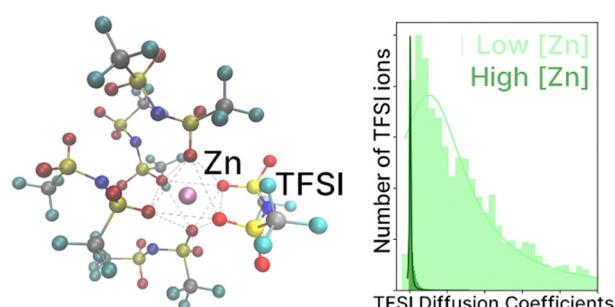
Rui Qin, Zeyu Wang, Chenyang Wei, Fengyi Zhou, Yurun Tian, Yu Chen\* and Tiancheng Mu\*



7049

## Impact of Li, Na and Zn metal cation concentration in EMIM-TFSI ionic liquids on ion clustering, structure and dynamics

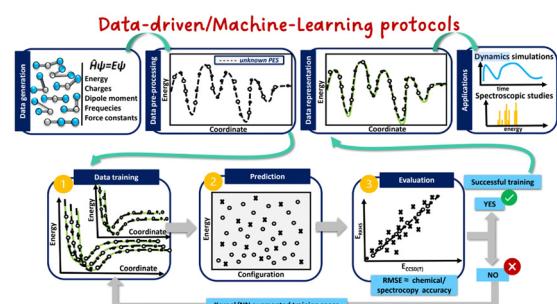
Samanvitha Kunigal Vijaya Shankar, Yann Claveau,\* Tojo Rasoanarivo, Chris Ewels and Jean Le Bideau



7060

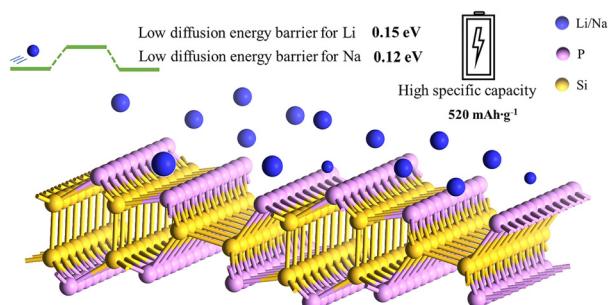
## A kernel-based machine learning potential and quantum vibrational state analysis of the cationic Ar hydride ( $\text{Ar}_2\text{H}^+$ )

María Judit Montes de Oca-Estévez, Álvaro Valdés and Rita Prosmiti\*



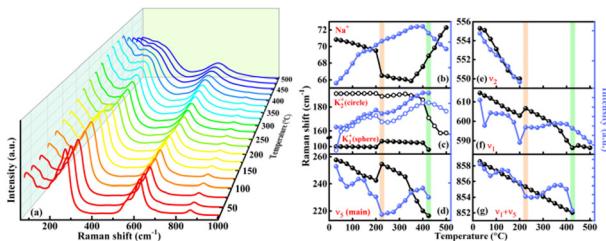
## RESEARCH PAPERS

7072

**A first-principles study of 2D single-layer SiP as anode materials for lithium-ion batteries and sodium-ion batteries**

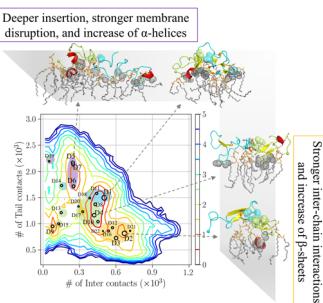
Yingying Xing, Chihao Cao, Zhong Huang, Liang Huang,\* Haijun Zhang\* and Quanli Jia

7083

**Deciphering the *in situ* phonon evolution of potassium sodium niobate under varying temperature and electric fields**

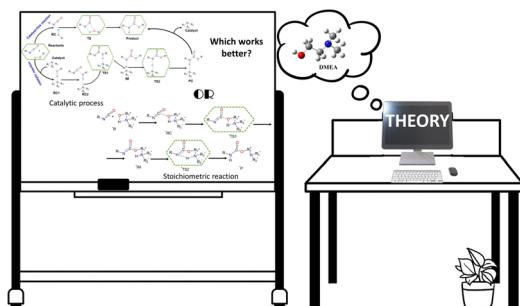
L. G. Wang, Y. S. Wang, C. M. Zhu,\* M. Y. Qin, J. Y. Wei and Y. Jiang\*

7090

**Structural diversity in the membrane-bound hIAPP dimer correlated with distinct membrane disruption mechanisms**

Qin Qiao,\* Guanghong Wei and Zhijian Song

7103

**Stoichiometric reaction and catalytic effect of 2-dimethylaminoethanol in urethane formation**

Hadeer Q. Waleed, Rachid Hadjadj, Béla Viskolcz and Béla Fiser\*

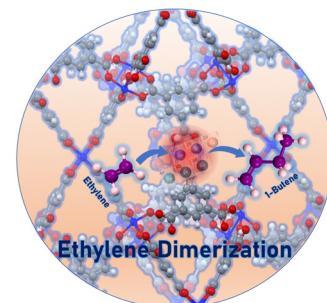


## RESEARCH PAPERS

7109

**Computational design of metal hydrides on a defective metal–organic framework HKUST-1 for ethylene dimerization**

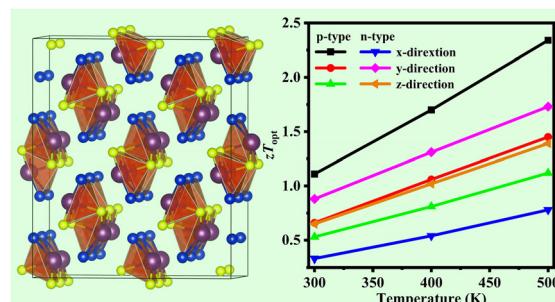
Karam Hashem, Ramakrishna Krishnan, Kuiwei Yang, Bai Amutha Anjali, Yugen Zhang and Jianwen Jiang\*



7124

**One-dimensional van der Waals BiSBr: an anisotropic thermoelectric mineral**

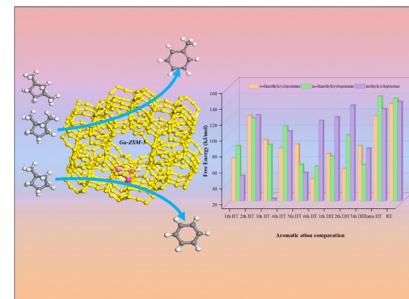
Prakash Govindaraj, Kowsalya Murugan and Kathirvel Venugopal\*



7137

**A density functional theory study on the mechanism of toluene from dimethylcyclopentane catalyzed by the [GaH]<sup>2+</sup> active site of Ga-ZSM-5**

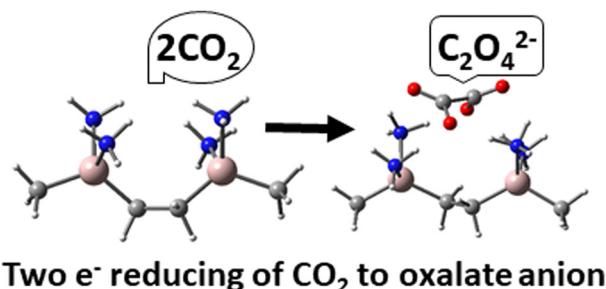
Hongyan Liu, Furong Sun, Junzhuo Xu, Hairong Zhang,\* Tingting Wu, Shenghua Han, Shijun Zhang, Yan Mo, Lixia Ling, Riguang Zhang, Maohong Fan\* and Baojun Wang\*



7149

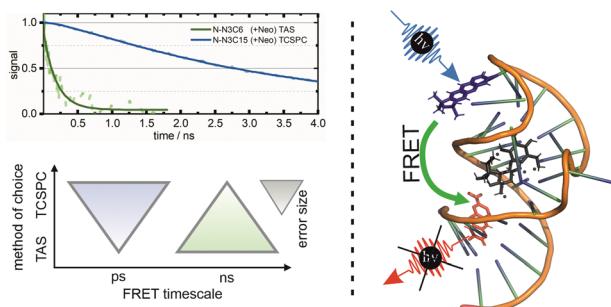
**A two-electron reducing reaction of CO<sub>2</sub> to an oxalate anion: a theoretical study of delocalized (presolvated) electrons in Al(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>n</sub>(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, n = 0–2 and m = 1–6, clusters**

Mohammad Esmail Alikhani\* and Benjamin G. Janesko



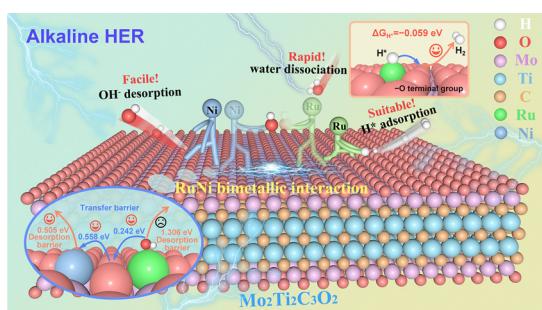
## RESEARCH PAPERS

7157

**Förster resonance energy transfer within the neomycin aptamer**

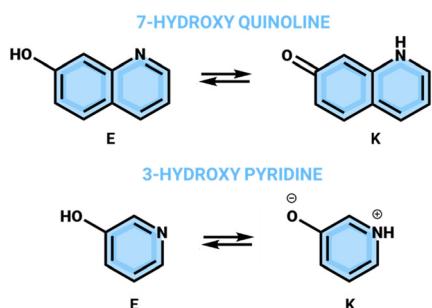
Florian Hurter, Anna-Lena J. Halbritter, Iram M. Ahmad, Markus Braun, Snorri Th. Sigurdsson and Josef Wachtveitl\*

7166

**NiRu–Mo<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> as an efficient catalyst for alkaline hydrogen evolution reactions: the role of bimetallic site interactions in promoting Volmer-step kinetics**

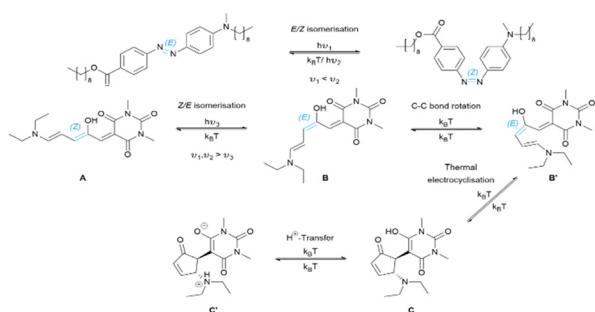
Qing Xi, Fangxia Xie, Zijun Sun, Jianxin Liu, Xiaochao Zhang, Yawen Wang, Aijuan Zhou, Xiaoli Ma,\* Xiaoming Gao, Xiuping Yue, Jun Ren, Caimei Fan, Xuan Jian and Rui Li\*

7177

**Azaindolizine proton cranes attached to 7-hydroxyquinoline and 3-hydroxypyridine: a comparative theoretical study**

Sofia Slavova and Liudmil Antonov\*

7190

**Characteristics and long-term kinetics of an azobenzene derivative and a donor–acceptor Stenhouse adduct as orthogonal photoswitches**

Tanja Schmitt, Christian Huck, Nils Oberhof, Li-Yun Hsu, Eva Blasco, Andreas Dreuw and Petra Tegeder\*

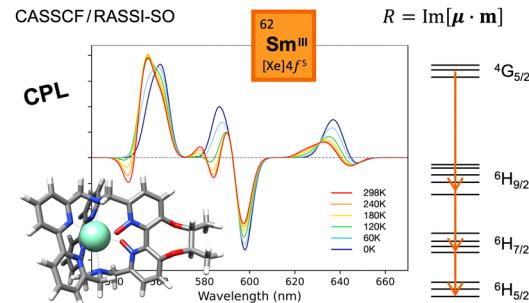


## RESEARCH PAPERS

7203

***Ab initio* investigations of circularly polarised luminescence in Samarium(III)-based complexes**

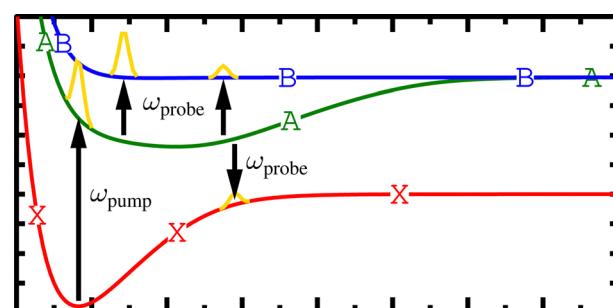
Maxime Grasser and Boris Le Guennic\*



7211

**Light-induced photodissociation in the lowest three electronic states of the NaH molecule**

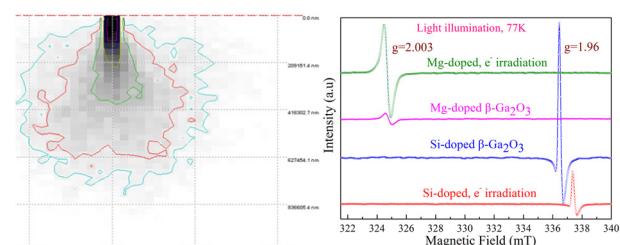
Otabek Umarov, András Csehi, Péter Badankó, Gábor J. Halász and Ágnes Víbók\*



7224

**Impact of electron irradiation on semi-insulating and conductive  $\beta\text{-Ga}_2\text{O}_3$  single crystals**

Jinpeng Lv,\* Lingzhe Ren and Yubao Zhang

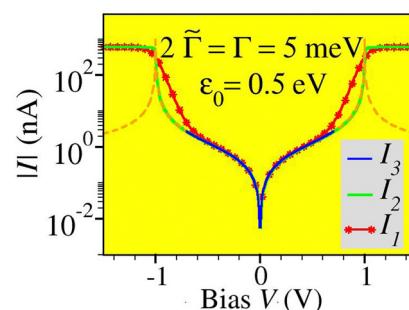


## COMMENTS

7230

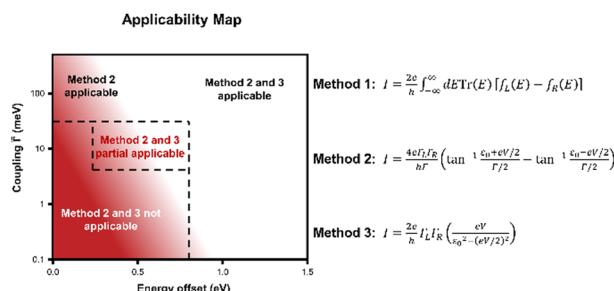
**Comment on "A single level tunneling model for molecular junctions: evaluating the simulation methods" by E. M. Opodi, X. Song, X. Yu and W. Hu, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2022, 24, 11958"**

Ioan Bâldea



## COMMENTS

7236



**Reply to the 'Comment on "A single level tunneling model for molecular junctions: evaluating the simulation methods"' by I Baldea, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2024, 26, D2CP05110A (<http://D2CP05110A>)**

Zheyang Li and Xi Yu\*

## CORRECTION

7239

**Correction: Impact of temperature-dependent non-PAN peroxy nitrate formation, RO<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, on nighttime atmospheric chemistry**

Michelle Färber, Luc Vereecken, Hendrik Fuchs, Georgios I. Gkatzelis, Franz Rohrer, Sergej Wedel, Andreas Wahner and Anna Novelli\*

